

I subscribed to XM Satellite Radio service primarily because my listening needs were (and still are) being ignored by local broadcasters. I find that XM, despite being a national service, is far more responsive to my desires than any of the "local" (all nationally owned), over-the-air broadcasters. Having lost my business to a better competitor, I now find it completely irrational that the FCC, as a government agency I support with my taxes, is now considering regulations proposed by the National Association of Broadcasters (specifically NAB's petition 04-160) to restrict the ability of XM to provide local services which are clearly not being provided on as timely and consistent basis by the NAB's members. Specifically, weather and traffic is provided by XM on a continuous basis. Except during morning and evening "rush hours", there is no over-the-air source of local traffic conditions and at best, semi-hourly updates on weather.

In summary, I urge the FCC to reject NAB's petition 04-160. I would support restrictions on satellite traffic and weather information only if the FCC required at least one local outlet, perhaps a joint endeavor of local NAB stations, to provide the exact same service on a continuous basis (24 by 7 by 365).

Respectfully,
James L Beeson